



Indoor Space Used for Child Care

FCCERS-R Indicator	Why is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ample indoor space for child care children, play materials, and furnishing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children and adults can move freely around. ○ Space allows for many play materials to be accessible at one time. ○ Space for equipment needed by children with disabilities. ○ Spacious open area for children to play. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of space in the child care is important because it affects both the efficiency of the program as a provider tries to meet the many routine care needs of children, and the number and types of play activities the children can engage in at the same time. • Insufficient space can lead to conflicts among children due to crowding, and can also create safety hazards from the cluttered conditions. It can also cause limitations in the program because materials easily become disorganized or must be minimized if the space in which they are used is cramped.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate lighting, ventilations, temperature control and sound absorbing materials. • Some direct natural lighting through windows, doors or skylights. • Natural light and ventilation can be controlled as needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjustable blinds or curtains for nap area. ○ Windows can be opened. ○ Ventilating fan can be used in bathroom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a room is too dark it may be difficult to supervise visually, seeing babies breathing while sleeping or seeing what a toddler is putting into their mouth. It is also difficult for children to use materials comfortably that require close attention. • If a space is too cold or too warm children and providers may become uncomfortable. • If noise levels are too high it could affect language development and it also creates tension and over-excitement and prevent children from sustained involvement in constructive play and learning. • Natural light can be too bright at times, causing glare that can interfere with activities or sleeping. • Odors from soiled diapers, the bathroom, or from cleaning products could cause an unpleasant smell for providers and/or children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is generally in good repair with no major problems that endanger children or compromise care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of the space is important because it affects the comfort, health and safety, as well as the self-image of the children and the provider(s) who spend many hours in the program daily. Space that is in poor repair or poorly maintained encourages rough and neglectful behavior towards the surroundings and materials, and can also be depressing and dangerous.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space for children is accessible to all children and adults with disabilities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Doorways must be at least 32 inches wide.○ Door handles must be operated with limited use of hands.○ Entrance thresholds should be ½ inch or less, but if over ¼ inch, must be beveled to roll over easy.○ Ramps and handrails for people with disabilities.○ Access for wheelchairs and walkers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility is legally required in all public facilities so that everyone can have equal opportunity to use the service, and is therefore required at the excellent level for all child cares.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Floors, walls, and other built-in surfaces should be made of easy to clean materials where needed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Washable floors/floor covering in eating and messy play area.○ Counters and cabinets have easy-to-clean surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since children are very vulnerable to infectious diseases, frequent washing and disinfecting of counter tops and other built-in surfaces are needed to protect their health.

SOURCE: Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS)

